

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /244 W

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R 081700Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2474

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND GATT WAIVER FOR HULA SKIRTS AND
SPEARS

REF: A. STATE 217934

B. GENEVA 5614

SUMMARY: NZ RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN GATT COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 7 FOR WAIVER BUT FINAL ACTION DEFERRED UNTIL SESSION OF
CONTRACTING PARTIES NOVEMBER 13-15. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW ZEALAND REP, IN ASKING NOVEMBER 7 GATT COUNCIL APPROVAL
OF ART. XXV WAIVER FOR \$50,000 TARIFF-FREE IMPORT QUOTA FOR
CERTAIN HANDICRAFTS FROM FIJI, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, NAURU, AND
PAPUA/NEW GUINEA, EMPHASIZED LOW POPULATION OF AND CLOSE CULTURAL
TIES WITH THESE ISLANDS. SAID OTHER SUPPLIERS WOULD OVERWHELM NEW
ZEALAND MARKET IF DUTY-FREE IMPORTS WERE ALLOWED ON MFN BASIS
AND CONTENDED PROPOSED DISCRIMINATION WOULD NOT ESTABLISH
PRECEDENT. NOTE: NEW ZEALAND CORRECTED LIST OF ISLANDS
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REPORTED IN REF (B) BY DELETING NIUE AND ADDING WESTERN

SAMOA.

2. BRAZIL RECOGNIZED ISLANDS MERIT ASSISTANCE BUT SAID THIS NOT GROUNDS FOR DISCRIMINATION AND REGRETTED NEW ZEALAND HAS NOT INCLUDED SCHEME IN GSP. U. S. (MILLER) SUPPORTED BRAZIL IN COMMENTING PER REFTEL (A).

3. FOLLOWING REPS SUPPORTED NZ REQUEST: JAPAN, CANADA, INDIA, URUGUAY, ZAIRE, PAKISTAN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, POLAND, GREECE, AND EC. SOME OF THESE REPS GAVE NO REASON; OTHERS SAID SIMPLY IT'S A SPECIAL CASE OR NO POSSIBILITY OF DAMAGE TO OTHERS, OR LEAST DEVELOPED NEED ALL THE ELP THEY CAN GET.

4. MALAYSIA ON BEHALF FOUR ASEAN MEMBERS OF GATT COUNCIL ASKED MATTER BE REFERRED TO CP SESSION NEXT WEEK IN ORDER HAVE MORE TIME TO REFLECT; MALAYSIA COMMENDED "ADMIRABLE" NZ INTENTIONS BUT NOTED ASEAN PRODUCTS MIGHT BE AFFECTED. SRI LANKA ALSO SAID SOME ITEMS OF TRADE INTEREST TO THEM AND JOINED AUSTRALIA IN SUPPORTING MALAYSIA REQUEST FOR DEFERRAL. CHAIR (KITAHARA) ANNOUNCED DECISION WOULD BE PLACED BEFORE 29TH SESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES, NOVEMBER 13-15.

5. COMMENT: SECRETARIAT INFORMED US SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING BRAZIL AND DELEGATIONS REQUESTING DELAY HAVE AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH NZ REQUEST. HENCE U. S. IS ONLY DEL STILL QUESTINGING WAIVER. WITH SOME 20 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES ALREADY IN HAND, THERE IS NO DOUBT NZ CAN GET ENOUGH VOTES DURING OR AFTER 29TH SESSION TO PUT SCHEME INTO EFFECT. MISSION SUGGESTS WE MAINTAIN OUR OPPOSITION NEXT WEEK (AND VOTE AGAINST IF WAIVER IS PUT TO VOTE) BUT NOT SEEK TO BLOCK CP DECISION.
BASSIN

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Message Attributes

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